

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-34. (CANCELED)

35. (ORIGINAL) A method for pressure processing a product comprising:
loading the product into a product carrier insulated with a material having substantially high adiabatic heating properties;
inserting the product carrier and the product contained therein into an ultrahigh-pressure vessel;
pressurizing the product carrier and its contents with a volume of pressure media for a selected period of time; and
removing the product carrier from the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

36. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:
preheating the product in the product carrier to a selected temperature;
preheating the ultrahigh-pressure vessel to the selected temperature; and
preheating the pressure media to the selected temperature, prior to pressurizing the product carrier.

37. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 36, further comprising: insulating an exterior surface of the product carrier as it is moved from a preheating apparatus to the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

38. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 35, further comprising: preheating the

ultrahigh-pressure vessel to a first temperature that is higher than an initial temperature of the product prior to pressurizing the product carrier.

39. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 38 wherein the first temperature is equal to the expected temperature of the product when pressurized.

40. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 35, further comprising:
adding a quantity of pressure media into the product carrier with the product prior to inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for pressure processing a product comprising:
loading the product into a product carrier that is insulated and substantially fluidically closed;
preheating an ultrahigh-pressure vessel to a selected temperature that is higher than an initial temperature of the product prior to pressurizing the product carrier;
inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel;
allowing pressure media to flow into the product carrier through selected pressure media entry ports;
pressurizing the product carrier with the pressure media for a selected period of time; and
removing the product carrier from the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

42. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 41, further comprising:
insulating an exterior surface of the product carrier as the product carrier is moved from a preheating apparatus to the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 41, wherein the selected temperature is equal to the expected temperature of the product when pressurized.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for pressure processing a product comprising:
loading the product into a product carrier;

closing the product carrier to substantially prevent the flow of pressure media into and out of the product carrier except through selected pressure media entry ports;
inserting the product carrier into an ultrahigh-pressure vessel;
preheating the ultrahigh-pressure vessel to a first temperature that is higher than an initial temperature of the product prior to pressurizing the product carrier;
pressurizing the product carrier for a selected period of time; and
removing the product carrier from the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

45. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 44, further comprising:
inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel and substantially simultaneously allowing a volume of pressure media to enter the pressure vessel.

46. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 45, further comprising:
adding a quantity of pressure media in the product carrier prior to inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

47. (CANCELED)

48. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 44, further comprising:
adding a quantity of pressure media in the pressure carrier prior to inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

49. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for pressure processing of product comprising:
closing the product carrier to substantially prevent the flow of pressure media into and out of the product carrier except through one or more selected pressure media entry ports;
loading the product into a product carrier;
preheating the product, an ultrahigh-pressure vessel and a volume of pressure media to a selected temperature;
inserting the product carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel;
pressurizing the product with the pressure media for a selected period of time;

removing the product carrier from the ultrahigh-pressure vessel;
evacuating the pressure media from the ultrahigh-pressure vessel to a reservoir;
reheating the pressure media in the reservoir to a selected temperature; and
allowing the pressure media from the reservoir to flow into the pressure vessel for treatment
of a second batch of product.

50. (CANCELED)

51. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 50, further comprising:
adding a quantity of pressure media into the product carrier prior to inserting the product
carrier into the ultrahigh-pressure vessel.

52. (NEW) The method according to claim 41, wherein the product carrier is insulated
with a material having substantially high adiabatic heating properties.

53. (NEW) The method according to claim 44, wherein the product carrier is insulated
with a material having substantially high adiabatic heating properties.

54. (NEW) The method according to claim 49, wherein the product carrier is insulated
with a material having substantially high adiabatic heating properties.

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